1804. NOVEMBER. LAWS OF MARYLAND.

C H A P.

for every cart or wagon whose wheels shall exceed in breadth four inches, and not exceeding seven inches, one sixteenth of a dollar for every horse drawing the same; for every cart or wagon, the breadth of whose wheels shall be more than seven inches, and not more than ten inches, or being of the breadth of seven inches shall roll more than ten inches, five cents for every horse drawing the same; for every cart or wagon, the breadth of whose wheels shall be more than ten inches, and not exceeding twelve inches, or being ten inches shall roll more than fifteen inches, three cents for every horse drawing the same; for every cart or wagon, the breadth of whose wheels shall be more than twelve inches, two cents for every horse drawing the same.

And erect scales, &c.

XXI. And be it enacted, That for the purpose of ascertaining the weight that may be drawn along the said road in any cart, wagon, or other carriage of burthen, it shall and may be lawful for the said president, managers and company, to erect and establish scales and weights at or near such and so many of the gates erected, or to be erected in pursuance of this act, as they may think proper, and where there may seem reasonable cause to suspect that any cart, wagon, or other carriage of burthen, carries a greater weight than is or shall be by law allowable, it shall be lawful for the toll-gatherers, or other persons in their service or employment, to prevent the same from passing such gate or turnpike, until such cart, wagon or other carriage of burthen, shall be drawn into the fixed or erected scales at or near any such gate or turnpike, and the weight or burthen drawn therein ascertained by weighing; and if the person or persons driving or having care or charge of any such cart, wagon, or other carriage of burthen, shall refuse to drive the same into any such scales for the purpose aforesaid, the person or persons so refusing shall forfeit and pay to the said president, managers and company, any sum not less than five dollars nor more than eight dollars, to be recovered in the manner herein after mentioned.

Weights to be drawn in wagons, &c. regulated, &c.

XXII. And BE IT ENACTED, That no wagon, or other carriage with four wheels, the breadth of whose wheels shall not be four inches, shall be drawn along the said road with a greater weight thereon than three tons; that no such carriage, the breadth of whose wheels shall not be seven inches, or being six inches or more shall roll at least ten inches, shall be drawn along the said roads with more than five tons; that no such carriage, the breadth of whose wheels shall not be ten inches or more, or being less shall not roll at least twelve inches, shall be drawn along the said road with more than eight tons; that no cart or other carriage with two wheels, the same breadth of wheels as the wagons aforesaid, shall be drawn along the said road with more than half the burthen or weight aforesaid; and if any cart, wagon, or carriage of burthen whatsoever, shall be drawn along the said road with a greater weight than is hereby allowed, the owner or owners of such carriage, if the excess of burthen shall be three hundred weight or upwards, shall forfeit and pay four times the customary tolls, for the use of the company; provided always, that it shall and may be lawful for the said company, by their by-laws, to alter any or all the regulations herein contained respecting the burthens or carriages to be drawn over the said road, and to substitute other regulations, if upon experiment such alterations shall be found conducive to the public good; provided nevertheless, that such regulations shall not lessen the burthens of carriages above described.

Treasurer appointed a court,

XXIII. And be it enacted, That the treasurer of the western shore be and he is hereby constituted a court of inspection, and it shall and may be the duty of the respective companies, once every year, (and oftener if required by the court,) to lay before the same a correct and methodical account of their disbursements and expenditures, and of the amount of the tolls collected and received on their respective roads for and during the twelve months preceding, and whenever the tolls shall, during two following years, exceed ten per centum, free of all charges on the institution, the said court shall, at their discretion, hold the excess thus arising above the said ten per centum in reserve, to meet any future deficiency, or, if in their judgment a continuance of the then tolls would produce a like annual excess, to lower the tolls, or any of them, so as to bring the aggregate on the roads respectively to ten per centum per annum; and the said court may, in their discretion, on the representation of the aforesaid companies, revise the tolls herein established, so as to render them in their operation more favourable to commerce and the industry of the citizen.

Stockholders entitled to receive ten per cent. &c. XXIV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the stockholders of the present companies shall be entitled to receive ten per centum per annum, and no more, over and above all charges and deductions whatsoever; and the president and managers of the respective companies shall keep a just and true account of all and every the monies received by their several and respective collectors of tolls at the several and respective gates and turnpikes on the said roads, from the beginnings to the ends thereof, which account shall be upon oath, or affirmation, as the case may be, and shall make a dividend of the clear profits and income thereof, not exceeding ten per centum in any year, among all the stockholders of every description, and shall, on the first Monday in November and May in every year, publish the